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SUBJECT: NAS Officers' Consultations in Vienna: Keep Them Coming

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¶1. Summary. UNVIE welcomed the opportunity to host incoming Embassy Dushanbe Narcotics Affairs Section (NAS) Officer Anne Carson for August 11-12 consultations with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). NAS Carson met with a range of UNODC experts involved in programs in Afghanistan and Central Asia, and they pinpointed issues of mutual interest and identified areas of potential future cooperation. This visit was an excellent reminder of the complementary work that many of our NAS offices and UNODC undertake and the importance of encouraging communication among NAS's, UNVIE, and UNODC, both in Vienna and in the field. UNVIE welcomes the opportunity to host further NAS officials. END SUMMARY.

Links Forged, Areas of
Mutual Interest Identified

¶2. UNVIE organized an August 11 - 12 schedule for NAS Carson focused on issues related to Afghan opiates in the Central Asian region, as well as broader law enforcement and governance issues in Tajikistan. Tangible results were immediate, including a UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB) invitation for U.S. participation in an upcoming workshop in Tajikistan and invitations to attend an October Paris Pact expert roundtable in Kabul and a Central Asia/Western China roundtable early next year. Areas of potential cooperation were also identified, including coordination with regard to UNODC's Afghanistan/Tajikistan border control project and technical assistance to the Tajikistan Drug Control Agency. UNVIE also coordinated with USOSCE to arrange consultations with the OSCE/Secretariat Borders Team for a discussion on border projects in Tajikistan.

Comment

¶3. NAS consultations in Vienna provide the opportunity for NAS's to receive briefings from UNODC experts on priority issues and can help establish NAS points of contact and links with UNODC (and OSCE as appropriate) in headquarters and the field. For these reasons, UNVIE encourages further NAS consultations in Vienna. END COMMENT

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